

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-28 are pending. Claims 2-8, 14, 16-19, 22, and 24-28 are withdrawn. In the present amendment, Claim 10, 11, 13, 15, and 23 are currently amended. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 6, lines 3-10 and in Fig. 2. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 10, 11, 15, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1, 11, 12, 15, 20, 21, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Hashiguchi (European Patent No. 1630120); and Claims 9 and 10 were objected to, but were indicated as including allowable subject matter. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 9 and 10.

First, Applicant thanks Examiner Marcelo for the courtesy of an interview granted to Applicant's representative on February 24, 2010, at which time the outstanding issues in this case were discussed. During the interview, arguments were presented that according to MPEP § 1893.03, the filing date of the present application is August 5, 2003, and thus Hashiguchi does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) because the filing date of Hashiguchi is June 5, 2003. Further, it was noted that Hashiguchi and the present application have the same inventor, Naoki Hashiguchi, and therefore Hashiguchi is not "by another" and also does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Examiner Marcelo agreed with these arguments and agreed to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Hashiguchi.

Further, with respect to the withdrawal of Claim 13, it was discussed during the interview that in an example embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 2, the stationary element mounting portion 7 has an L-shaped cross section which includes an annular plate

portion 22 extending radially outwardly from the stationary frame member and includes a cylindrical portion 23 axially extending from the annular plate portion 22. The Examiner asserted that Claim 13 would be examined on the merits upon Claim 13 being amended to distinguish its features from reading on Fig. 16.

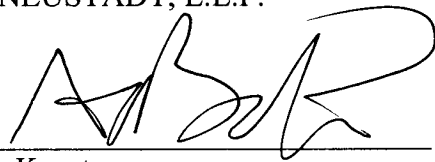
With respect to the rejection of Claims 10, 11, 15, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, proposed amendments to the claims to correct the noted informalities were presented during the interview. Examiner Marcelo agreed that the correction of these informalities would overcome this ground for rejection.

Examiner Marcelo indicated that in light of the arguments and proposed amendments, he would reconsider the outstanding grounds for rejection upon formal submission of a response. The present response constitutes Applicant's statement of substance of the personal interview.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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